

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

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P R 281419Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9175

AMCONGEN LENINGRAD

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USIA FOR IEU, ICS/E; STATE FOR EUR/SOV

E.O. 11652: NA

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SUBJ: EXHIBITS: PHOTOGRAPHY USA

REF: 75 USIA 26520, USIA 1736, MOSCOW 0511

1. FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF REFTEL, EMBOFFS CALLED AGAIN ON CHAMBER OFFICIALS (OGANESYAN, GOTSOULIAK) AND DISCUSSED PENDING QUESTIONS IN THREE SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH MFA CULTURAL DIVISION.

2. MFA UNABLE TO REPLY ON CITY REQUESTS OR ON SIX-CITY CONTRACT PROPOSAL AS OF JAN 28, BUT PROMISES ANSWER SOON.

3. CHAMBER HAS SAID THAT, DESPITE OUR VIEW THAT SITE SURVEYS IMPLY NO COMMITMENT (REFTEL), THEY CANNOT BE DONE WITHOUT FORMAL AGREEMENT BY CITY AUTHORITIES, MFA, AND OTHER CONCERNED, ON EXHIBIT SCHEDULE FOR THAT CITY.

4. OGANESYAN SAID DECISION ON FIRST THREE CITIES SHOULD BE MADE BY FEB 5. HE SAID LENINGRAD AND KIEV SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM, BUT HE DISCRIBED HIMSELF AS NOT OPTIMISTIC ON KUYBYSHEV OR, AS ALTERNATE GORKIY. OGANESYAN SAID
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HE CHECKED POINT MADE EARLIER BY EMBASSY THAT SCIENTIFIC

SIBERIA HAD BEEN ACCORDED CLOSED CITIES FORT WORTH AND SALT LAKE CITY. THESE CITIES, HE SAID, WERE OFFERED BY US AND NOT REQUESTED BY USSR, SO NO QUESTION OF BALANCE ARISES.

5. NEITHER CHAMBER NOR MFA GAVE ANY INDICATION THAT SIX-CITY NEGOTIATION PACKAGE MIGHT BE APPROVED. COMMENTS CONTINUE TO BE NEGATIVE, ALTHOUGH THEY SAY QUESTION IS BEING STUDIED, SO SOME FORM OF COMPROMISE MAY BE UNDER CONSIDERATION.

6. POST PRESSED FOR EARLY REPLY ESPECIALLY BECAUSE NOVAK IS IN COUNTRY AND COULD, WITH AGENCY APPROVAL, PROCEED WITH SITE SURVEYS AFTER MINSK TALKS OPENING FEB 11. OGANESYAN WAS CONFIDENT REPLIES FOR FIRST THREE CITIES COULD BE OBTAINED BEFORE THEN. SITE SURVEYS LATER IN FEBRUARY WOULD BE DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF PARTY CONGRESS.

7. AS STATED MOSCOW 0511, CHAMBER SAYS LENINGRAD OFFICIALS STILL RELUCTANT HOST TWO AMERICAN EXHIBITS "BACK TO BACK" BY HAVING LENINGRAD START OFF NEW EXHIBIT. ALSO, HOTEL SPACE AT PREMIUM DURING "WHITE NIGHTS" CELEBRATION. OGANESYAN SAID, HOWEVER, THAT IN VIEW OF EMBASSY PREFERENCE THEY WILL CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR LENINGRAD AS FIRST CITY. NO ALTERNATIVE SO FAR HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH LENINGRAD.

8. CHAMBER REP DID SAY LENINGRAD EXHIBIT WOULD BE IN SAME OR COMPARABLE HALL AS TALKS EXHIBIT. NO PROBLEM FORESEEN IN KIEV AS TWO SPACES WITH 1300 M. AVAILABLE.

9. RE TARIFF RATES IN CONTRACT TALKS, OGANESYAN MADE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR HIS POSITION AS HE SAID HE HAD IN EARLIER DISCUSSION WITH ICS/E DIRECTOR: ALTHOUGH NEW TARIFFS WERE EFFECTIVE JAN 1975, SINCE NEGOTIATIONS ON TALKS WERE HELD IN '74, COMPROMISE RATES WERE USED AT THAT TIME. IT THEREFORE DOUBTFUL THAT CURRENT PUBLISHED RATES OF 18 RUBLES PER METER (GROSS SPACE) OR 21 RUBLES (NET SPACE) NEGOTIABLE. STOESEL

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